Vol. VII. Numb. 5.

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Obſervator's *Vindication from the malicious Reflections of the* Review, *as to the Deficiency of our Troops in* Spain *and* Portugal. *On the Deſcent threaten'd from* France, *under the Conduct of the pretended Prince of* Wales.

From Saturday, February 28. to Wednesday, March 3. 1708.

Country-m. DO you perceive how the *Review* falls upon you, Maſter?

Obſ. Yes, *Roger*; but the beſt on't is, that one who has been pillory'd for Slander, can neither be admitted for a good Witneſs, or Jury-man: And I am of Opinion, that thoſe whom he pretends to defend, will ſcarcely think themſelves honour'd by ſuch an Advocate. Beſides, *Roger*, what we ſaid as to the Deficiency of our Troops in *Spain* and *Portugal*, was founded upon the Votes of our Honourable Patriots, the Commons, of the 3d of *Feb.* laſt; and if the Deficiency appear'd ſo to them, we had ſufficient Reaſon to believe it: So that all the Babbler's Reflections about allarming the Nation with an Account of ſuch a Deficiency, ſtrike againſt our Repreſentatives, who publiſh'd it in their Votes: We don't find, that the Honourable Houſe, have in the leaſt contradicted what they ſaid about that Deficiency: Nor have they cenſur'd the Gentleman, who gave them an Account of it, as having impos'd a Falſhood upon them. They have indeed, upon the putting of the Queſtion, *That the Deficiency of the* Engliſh *Troops in* Spain *and* Portugal, *at the Time of the Battel of* Almanza, *has been chiefly occaſion'd by the Want of timely and effectual Recruits being ſent thither*; carry'd it in the Negative, by a conſiderable Majority; and order'd, *An Addreſs of Thanks to her Majeſty, for taking Meaſures to reſtore the Affairs of* Spain, *and for providing foreign Troops for that Service.* But does this infer, that they were in the Wrong to publiſh what they did in their Votes of the 3d of *Feb.* or that all thoſe Members, who were for the Affirmative, are Clamourers, Railers, Inſulters of her Majeſty, *&c.* as the pillory'd Slanderer would have the World to think you and me, *Roger?* It had been more becoming ſuch a Pretender to Peace and Unity, to have left the Matter, as the Commons did, for Reaſons, which, to be ſure, were very weighty; and not to inſinuate, as he does by his malicious Papers, that their above-mention'd Votes of the 3d, were all clamourous and raving. There are many Caſes, wherein there may be Reaſon enough to ſupercede an Enquiry, tho' the Grounds of the ſaid Enquiry be juſt. Thus *David* referr'd ſeveral Puniſhments upon Great Criminals to his Son, which 'twas not fit for him to inflict during his own Time; yet Juſtice found them out at laſt.

Country-m. I remember that very well, Maſter; and at the ſame Time can't but take Notice, that the Babbler lets ſlip thro' his Fingers, the Addreſſes of the Lords you mention'd, repreſenting *conſiderable Exceſſes in the Charge of the Sea-Service, and conſiderable Deficiencies in Payments for it, as well as of Sea-men appointed by Parliament.*

Obſ. Juſtice is none of the Buſineſs of Men of his Character, *Roger*; but prithee let's leave him to regale himſelf with Slander and Malice, his natural Element; for he may well be allow'd to miſrepreſent our Words and Senſe, ſince he does ſo by thoſe of the Houſe of Commons.

Country-m. Very true, Maſter; had he been poſſeſs'd of the leaſt Candor, he would have taken Notice of what you quoted from Count *Gallas*'s Memorial; wherein the Count complains, that 6000 of King *Charles* the III's Troops could not act at the opening of the Campaign, for Want of Money, Arms, Cloaths, *&c.* Now, Maſter, I think it plain, that 6000 Men might have gone fair to have turn'd the Fortune of the Day at *Almanza:* And if to this, we add what we formerly took Notice of in Mr. *Friend*'s Book, *of the Earl of* Peterborough's *Conduct in* Spain, where the Author ſpeaking of the ſmall Number of Men his Lordſhip had under him, has this Remark upon it, "A Number, that perhaps may be ſurprizing to "thoſe, who remember how vigorouſly and early "*the Parliament after the firſt Siege of* Barcelona, *voted a ſtrong Reinforcement to be ſent immediately into thoſe Parts*; it will appear plain enough to any, but thoſe who are drench'd in Malice, that the Honourable Houſe of Commons did not raſhly believe, there had been a Deficiency in our Troops in *Spain* and *Portugal*; for this Vote was a Year and a half before the Battel of *Almanza.*

Obſ. We will leave that Matter as it is, *Roger*; and do as heartily, as any Subjects of the Nation, join with the Commons, *in their Thanks to her Majeſty, for taking Meaſures to reſtore the Affairs of* Spain, *and for providing foreign Troops for that Service.* No Body could ever doubt of her Majeſty's Zeal to carry on that War, with the utmoſt Vigour, becauſe of its Importance: But, *ſince what has been, may be*; and that it appears plain enough, by the Addreſſes of the Lords, *&c.* above-mention'd, that her Majeſty has not always been faithfully ſerv'd, either as to her Men or Money, there is no Inconſiſtency betwixt ſaying, *That no Care has been wanting in her Majeſty, to ſupport the War in* Spain *and* Portugal, *after the moſt effectual Manner*; and ſuppoſing, at the ſame Time, that ſome of her Majeſty's Allies or Servants, may have come ſhort of their Duty. If it be otherwiſe, Mr. *Friend*'s Book ought to be burnt by the Hand of the common Hang-man, for what has been quoted already; and likewiſe for ſaying, in the Beginning of the Campaign of *Valencia*, "That an immedi-"ate March, and a ſufficient Sum of Money for "the procuring a Body of Horſe, had enabl'd the "Allies, at that very Juncture, to over-run *Spain*, "before the Enemy could have had Time to op-"poſe ſo vigorous and unexpected an Attempt, *&c.* Now if this be true, *Roger*, here was a plain Deficiency of Money, as well as of Troops, notwithſtanding the vigorous and early Vote of the Parliament, the Cloſe of 1705.

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, that ſome Time or other, an Account may be demanded, why the Battel of *Almanza* was fought under ſuch diſadvantageous Circumſtances; and why other People had not the ſame Foreſight concerning it, as the Earl of *Peterborough* expreſſes in his Letter from *Turin*, of the 21ſt of *April*, 1707, to the *Portugal* Ambaſſador; wherein his Lordſhip intreats his Excellency, "To think again of the Conſequence "of a loſt Battel, ſince God be prais'd, we were "not in a Neceſſity of a Victory, that being the "Circumſtance of *France:* And I hope it may alſo deſerve an Enquiry, why his Lordſhip's Meaſures mention'd in that ſame Letter, to have been propos'd to King *Charles* the III. for ſecuring *Madrid*, and hindering the Duke of *Anjou*'s having any

any Succours from *France*, were not comply'd with.

Obs. What News from Abroad, *Roger*? What's the Meaning of all this Noise about the *St. Germains* Pretender's being at *Dunkirk*, with a Body of Troops to embark, and a Squadron to convoy them?

Country-m. He is wiser than I that can tell, Master; but I should be glad to have your Opinion, whether you think it be only an Amusement to give us a Diversion, and to prevent the Sailing of our Convoys to *Portugal* and *Spain*; or whether it be a real Design to invade this Island?

Obs. That must be left to the Determination of Futurity, *Roger*. In the mean Time, it has ill Consequences, as to our Trade, and occasions a great Loss to our Merchants, whose Men are press'd from on board their Ships, tho' they have pay'd them Part of their Money; besides the Ships cannot proceed on their Voyage, which may occasion the Loss of their Market, and the spoiling of their perishable Goods. Not, *Roger*, that any of those Things, or all of 'em together, should come in Competition with the Defence of the Country. But this shews the Necessity of having a principal Regard to the Preservation and Encrease of our Naval Force; and to the destroying or lessening that of the Enemy. And it's but just, our Merchants should have their Damages made good, in such a Way as the Wisdom of the Nation shall think fit.

Country-m. I heartily wish they may, Master; for it grieves my Heart, to think of their continual Losses, by which the Queen, and the whole Nation, suffers.

Obs. As to the *St. Germains* Pretender, *Roger*, I can hardly think the *French* King, except he has a Mind to be rid of him, would adventure to send him to any Part of this Island, with so small a Force as 10000 Men, except he were sure of being join'd by great Numbers upon his Arrival; and if so, there must be great Men, in all Probability, concern'd in it. But however that be, 'tis the Concern of our Sovereign, and of the Parliament of *Great Britain*, now assembled, to put the Nation in a good Posture of Defence, and to put the Commissions of Lieutenancy and Peace into the Hands of such, through the whole Island, as are not suspected of Anti-Revolution Principles, or of Enmity to the Family of *Hannover*.

Country-m. I doubt there are too many of the latter, Master, who appear under a Whiggish Vizard. The Treatment that Family has met with from some People among us, and the Disappointments the Elector is like to rencounter in his Command on the *Upper Rhine*, look as if the Plot against the Succession of that Family were very deep lay'd; and that some Folks are endeavouring, that Princess *Sophia* of *Hannover*'s Right to our Crown should be defeated in the same Manner, as was that of *Maud* the Empress, tho' it was settled by Law, and all the Nation sworn to it. But what do ye think the *Scots* will entertain the Pretender, Master? For I find the Publick News seems to hint, that he is bound to *Scotland*.

Obs. They that have made it their Business to provoke the *Scots*, both before, and since the Union, *Roger*, seem to be be stable to answer that Question. I don't pretend to prophecy, but I think the ready Way to lessen the Pretender's Party there, is rather to enquire into, and redress the Grievances of that People, than to be constantly teazing them, by seizing their Wines and Brandies, *&c.* By disputing the Draw-backs allow'd them by the *Union-Act*, and by the Endeaveurs that have been us'd to continue them under the Influence of a Privy Council, which, as appears by the History of that Country, has, for most Part, since the Union of the Crowns, been as tyrannical over the Subjects, as any *Turkish Divan*. The Promoters of those Proceedings, *Roger*, seem to have been more for an Union in Name, than in Reality; and to have been for increasing, instead of diminishing the Pretender's Party in that Country. A Word is enough to the Wise: May God find them out.

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